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Seaham Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1946

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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Seaham
Urban District Council

ANNUAL
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FOR 1946

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Seaham Urban District Council.

Chairman, Councillor S. BARRATT.

Chairman of Health Committee, Councillor W. P. SMITH, J.P.

Members of the Council:

Councillor ARMSTRONG	Councillor McLAUCHLAN
„ BARRATT	„ *OAKLEY
„ *BLACKWELL, J.H.	„ *OLIVER
„ BLACKWELL, O.	„ *PIGG
„ CHARLTON	„ *ROBINSON
„ CONN	„ *SAVAGE
„ *CROMPTON	„ SCOTT, J. A.
„ *GASCOIGNE	„ SHAW
„ *GOODWIN	„ *SMITH
„ *KEELEY	„ *STRONG
„ LEE	„ *TODD
„ LOWERY	„ WEBSTER
„ MORELAND	„ *WEETMAN
„ MYERS	„ WHITWELL
„ McCUTCHEON	„ WILLIAMS
	„ WILSON

* Members of Health Committee.

Officials of Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health:

WM. JAMES PEDEN, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M., L.R.C.S.I. & L.M.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—Vacant.

Engineer and Surveyor—J. WORTHINGTON, M. INST M & CY. E.
A.M.T.P.I.

(to 29th July, 1946) A. M. SMITH, M.I.M. & CY.E., A.I.A.A.

Clerk in Health Department—Miss J. DOWDING.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the
Seaham Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I present my annual report for 1946.

The health of the area has been satisfactory and we have again to report that there have been no major epidemics. The return of the forces brought contacts of serious infectious disease to our shores, mostly suspect smallpox, but in Seaham itself, where the contacts were under strict surveillance, there were no further developments.

Diphtheria still shows the downward trend, and there was no evidence that any severe types existed in our district. We are again much indebted to the British Red Cross to whose support we owe very much.

Housing is still and will be the chief problem for some time, but as each month passes a small number of people are re-housed and as these numbers gradually increase, we hope in the future to produce a brighter picture. We saw this year the event of the "squatters," and some doubt was aroused in our minds as to the ultimate result from the health standpoint, but happily our fears did not materialize and the position has been more or less satisfactory.

Shipping has resumed its pre-war figures, but our close co-operation with the Harbour Officials kept everything in order.

The ambulance service, consisting of two ambulances and three drivers, has proved itself capable of dealing with every situation which has arisen.

There has been an increase in the birth rate—the highest for many years—and in conjunction with this we are glad to note that there has been a further drop in the Infantile Mortality rate.

May I thank the Health Committee, the Council and my colleagues on the staff, for the help and support given to me during the year.

WM. JAMES PEDEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Area : 2,467 statute acres.

Number of inhabited houses (June, 1946), 6,128 (5,978)

Estimated number of separate tenancies (June, 1946), 6,985 (6,835)

Rateable value, £103,253 (£101,634).

The sum represented by a Penny rate, £377 (£379)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate—LIVE BIRTHS:—

23.4 per 1000 estimated population (21.5)

STILL BIRTHS:—

Rate per 1,000 total births, 21.7 (37.3).

Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live births, 46.1 (56.3)

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000 live births, 44.4 (52.4)

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1000 live births, 29.4 (66.6).

Deaths.

Total rate per 1000 population, 11.1 (10.0):

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births, 1.6 (1.8)

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from Cancer ...	21 (13)	24 (14)	45 (27)
Deaths from Measles ...	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Deaths from Whooping Cough ..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1 (6)	1 (3)	2 (9)
Deaths from Diphtheria ...	0 (1)	1 (0)	1 (1)
Deaths from T.B. (Pul.) ...	4 (8)	7 (8)	11 (16)
Deaths from T.B. (Non-Pul.) ...	2 (1)	0 (5)	2 (6)
Deaths from Diseases of the Heart ...	43 (39)	47 (38)	90 (77)
Deaths from Circulation (including Intracranial) ...	18 (15)	23 (13)	41 (28)
Deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc. ...	15 (13)	15 (6)	30 (19)

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics for 1946 and certain
previous years.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	42.0	21.1	174
1910	36.4	14.8	122
1920	35.2	16.3	124
1930	23.0	10.5	80
1937	17.2	10.3	82.9
1938	16.9	10.6	66.6
1939	16.3	10.6	78
1940	18.2	12.6	56.9
1941	17.6	12.2	60.4
1942	18.1	11.3	49.8
1943	19.86	13.5	59.3
1944	20.8	11.2	73.6
1945	21.5	10.0	56.3
1946	23.4	11.1	46.1

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics for 1945 and 1946.

	England and Wales		Smaller towns (Population 25,000-50,000)		County Rate		Seaham	
	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946
Birth Rate ...	16.1	19.1	19.2	21.3	18.9	21.3	21.5	23.4
Death Rate ...	11.4	11.5	12.3	11.7	11.9	11.6	10.0	11.1
I. M. Rate ...	46	43	43	37	53	49	56.3	46.1

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS.

The tables will show you the trend of events during the year.

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:—

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Died	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	2	—	1	2	16	13	10	1	—	—	—	38	—	45
Diphtheria ..	—	—	1	2	—	5	7	5	6	1	1	—	26	1	28
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	3
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	—	6
Cerebro Spinal..	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	5
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles ..	22	31	48	37	30	77	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	251
Whooping Cough	5	3	5	4	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Pneumonia ..	9	7	3	3	5	6	3	5	6	4	6	2	—	—	59

TABLE IV.
Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1946.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	4	2	5	3	1	6	8	—	1	1	3	11	45
Diphtheria ..	1	3	6	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	5	2	28
Puerperal Sepsis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Erysipelas ..	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	6
Cerebro Spinal ..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	5
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles ..	108	55	45	18	5	5	3	1	—	—	2	9	251
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	1	9	5	2	25
Pneumonia ..	5	8	8	8	3	5	2	4	4	6	3	3	59

TABLE V.
Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Cases
notified during past five years.

(Figures in parenthesis indicate number of Deaths).

Disease	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Scarlet Fever ...	71	53 (0)	39 (0)	49 (0)	45 (0)
Diphtheria ...	267 (7)	101 (6)	40 (3)	38 (1)	28 (1)
Puerperal Sepsis ...	3	1 (1)	—	2 (0)	3 (0)
Erysipelas ...	8	15 (0)	4 (0)	8 (0)	6 (0)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3 (1)	9 (4)	1 (1)	4 (2)	5 (1)
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	0 (0)	1 (0)
Measles ...	38	786 (1)	43 (0)	180 (0)	251 (0)
Whooping Cough ...	56	34 (1)	40 (0)	13 (0)	25 (0)
Pneumonia ...	107	75 (13)	53 (0)	37 (0)	59 (0)
T.B.—Pulmonary ...	31 (21)	36 (16)	31 (7)	28 (14)	38 (11)
T.B.—Non-Pulmonary	22 (4)	21 (4)	27 (0)	19 (5)	17 (0)

TABLE VI.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	1	1	2	3	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—
10-15 ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ..	2	3	3	—	—	1	—	—
20-25 ..	5	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
25-35 ..	4	4	—	1	2	—	—	—
35-45 ..	—	5	—	—	—	2	—	—
45-55 ..	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-65 ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	22	16	11	6	4	7	—	—

A few notes are here appended which will help the tables to explain themselves.

- (1) **Cerebro Spinal Fever.**—We record five notifications and one death in this disease. We have seen in recent years the advance in medicine which has considerably reduced the death rate.
- (2) **Diphtheria.**—There has been a further reduction in the number of cases admitted to hospital. I would like again to point out to the parents how dangerous it is to leave the baby unprotected when the simple procedure of two injections would see it safely through its early years.
- (3) **Measles.**—274 cases were notified and we have no deaths to report.
- (4) **Scarlet Fever**—was again of the mild type.
- (5) **Typhoid.**—Nothing to report.
- (6) **Tuberculosis.**—There has been an increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified and a reduction of the Non-pulmonary type. The number of deaths has been less in both cases. Tuberculosis of the lungs normally does not show itself below the age of fifteen years and we are glad to point out to mothers that there were no deaths recorded either in pulmonary or non-pulmonary types up to school-leaving age. Infection may occur in the early years and not manifest itself, and we should like to emphasize how essential it is not to neglect the building up process of the body at those times.
- (7) **Whooping Cough.**—25 cases of whooping cough were notified.

GENERAL SANITATION.

- (1) **Abatement of Nuisances**—All complaints received by the Sanitary Inspector have been attended to, and the following nuisances have been dealt with :—

Dwelling-houses	{	Foul conditions..	..	26
and	{	Structural defects	..	16
Schools	{	Overcrowding ..	..	0
Ashpits and Privies		..	..	16
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		..	..	6
Water Closets	..	..	..	96
Defective yard paving	..	..	..	15
House Drainage	{	Defective traps ..	..	0
	{	No disconnection from sewers	..	0
	{	Other faults ..	..	26
Animals improperly kept	..	..	..	3
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	..	12
Other Nuisances	..	..	..	136

- (2) **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—Disinfection of clothing and bedding is done by a Thresh type of disinfector at the Health Department Depot, Cornelia Terrace. House disinfections are done by Formaldehyde liquid and vapour tablets, Cromessol and Killgerm Liquid Disinfectant.

- (3) **Disinfestation and Eradication of Bed Bugs**—

This work is done at the depot with the Thresh Disinfector and the above named fumigants used. When houses are required to be disinfected other fumigants are used :—(i) Powder (Kolium C o.); (ii) Insecticides (Kolium and British Fumigants Co. Ltd., and Killgerm Powder); (iii) Fumigation (Fumex, Kolium and Killgerm Sulphur blocks); (iv) Formaldehyde Liquid, Vapour and D.D.T.

- (4) **Drainage and Sewerage.** — The combined system is in operation for the disposal of sewerage, is working satisfactory. The sewerage is discharged into the sea at the east side of the town. The sewers have been extended and further additions will be necessary to cope with the housing schemes which have been undertaken. There are a very small number of houses which are not on the water carriage system and as opportunity arises these conversions are carried out.

- (5) **Factories and Workshops.**—These have been visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition. There are cases where the owners are wishing to make alterations to the premises, and as soon as the necessary permission can be obtained and labour and materials are available these alterations will be carried out.
- (6) **Housing.**—Great difficulty is experienced in obtaining materials and labour in getting work done, but every effort is made to keep the houses in as good condition as possible. Ninety-seven prefab houses were completed during the year.
- (7) **Meat and other Foods**—A total of 1005 visits were made to where food is stored.

The following is a list of foods condemned:—

Beef 397½ lbs., Pork 100 lbs., Mutton 35 lbs., Sausage 54 lbs., Sausage Meat 7½ lbs., Pork Luncheon Meat 18 lbs., Stewed Steak 50 lbs., Casserole Steak 5 tins, Brawn 118 lbs., Polony 1 lb., Beef Sausage Meat 4 lbs., Pork Sausage Meat, Steak and Kidney 1 lb., Bacon 810½ lbs., Ham 19¾ lbs., Butter 12 lbs. 6 ozs., Margarine 122 lbs., Cheese 26¾ lbs., Eggs 1298, Dried Egg 4 pkts., Milk 188 tins, Jam 140 lbs., Marmalade 11 lbs., Syrup 8 lbs., Honey 10 lbs., Pears 4 tins, Plums 2 tins, Tomatoes 30 tins, Beans 86 tins, Peas 42 tins, Soup 286 tins. M. & V. Ration 7 tins, Carrots 1 tin, Mixed Vegetables 3 tins, Spaghetti 2 tins, Fish 3 stone, Salmon 53 tins, Pilchards 66 tins, Herring 5 tins, Crawfish 2 tins, Sardines 3 tins, Bananas 33 bunches, Sauces 12 bottles, Meat Paste 8 jars, Fish Paste 13 jars, Fish Cakes 4, Fish Roll 1, Pickles 2 jars, Mustard 1 jar, Beetroot 3 jars, Pickled Onions 6 jars, Swiss Rolls 2, Pudding Mixture 86 pkts., Egg Powder 15 pkts., Tea Scone Mixture 13 pkts., Raisins 60½ lbs., Biscuits 62¾ lbs., Oats 5½ lbs., Flour 89 lbs., Bread 92 loaves, Shredded Wheat 1 pkt., Cornflakes 1 pkt., Lemon Crystals 1 pkt., Vegetable Links 32 lbs., Scotts Emulsion 1 bottle, Vironita 1 bottle, Fruit Cocktail 1 tin.

- (8) **Milk.**—Inspections have been made of the Cowsheds, Farms and Dairies in the area and have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

- (9) **Port Sanitary Authority.**—The port is mainly concerned with the export of coal and most of the shipping is coastwise, there being very little of a foreign nature. No cases of infectious disease were found during the year. No food enters the port.

The water supplied to the docks is supplied by the Sunderland & South Shields Water Company and since it is piped the risk of contamination is negligible.

The Customs Officials receive in the first place a Declaration of Health, which is then conveyed to the Health Department, likewise the Customs Officials receive messages from the ship and board the vessel and where necessary they are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector or the Medical Officer of Health.

The mooring station is situated on the south-east corner of the south dock.

There are no premises or waiting rooms for temporary accommodation. The cleansing, the disinfection, the hospital accommodation, the ambulance and supervision of contacts are all arranged by the Health Department and are satisfactory. No nuisances on ships were reported during the year.

Bacteriological and pathological examinations can be made at the King's College, Newcastle, and the local doctors and Customs Officials have been informed of the times of the Venereal Disease treatment, which is carried out by the Sunderland Royal Infirmary.

A full time Rodent Officer is employed by the local Council who deals with any complaints which are not numerous since no grain enters the port. Only two rats were found on ships entering the port during the year.

- (10) **Rat Disinfestation.** — A full time Rodent Operator is employed and good work has been done. All complaints have been dealt with and methods used for disinfestation are those recommended by the Ministry of Food.

(10) **Refuse and Salvage.**—The total amount of refuse collected for the year ending 31st March, 1947, was 19,598 tons. Controlled tipping is in operation, and the tip is situated in the south-eastern part of the area and Dawdon Dene.

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, the approximate total figures being :

Paper	..	...	72 tons
Scrap Metal		...	11 ,, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwts.
Non-ferrous Metals	.	1 ,,	4 $\frac{1}{4}$,,
Textiles	...	...	4 ,, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$,,
Bones	...	...	1 ,, 3 $\frac{1}{4}$,,
Kitchen Waste	...	109 ,,	17 ,,
Bottles and Jars	...	29 ,,	10 ,,

Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of Vessels reported as having had, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign { Steamers * Motor Sailing Fishing	16	6359	9	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign ...	16	6359	9	16	"	"	"	"
Coastwise { Steamers * Motor Sailing... Fishing	893	546,781	8	98	"	"	"	"
	172	36,228	—	—	"	"	"	"
	1	184	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Coastwise ...	1066	583,193	8	98	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign and Coastwise	1082	589,552	17	114	"	"	"	"

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

Factories Act, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	33	49	—	—	1

(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	2	—	—	—	—	2

(b) Others.. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	3

(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises	4	—	—	—	—	4

TOTAL ..	—	33	49	—	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	5	1	1	—	—	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(a) Insufficient ...	11	1	1	—	1	—	11
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
(c) Not separate for sexes...	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	60	2	2	—	—	—	60
TOTAL...		2	2		1		

